

PONY

THE UK'S
Nº1
PONY
MAGAZINE



HELP!
MY PONY
WON'T JUMP
AT SHOWS!

**Volunteer
with horses!**

Cantering
made easy



September
2015
£3.99
Issue 803

**Real Life
Experiences**

**"My pony cost me
my best friend!"**

**"I won a
KBIS Bursary!"**



**fabulous
posters**

TRY OUR WORMING QUIZ!

INSIDE

your mag ...

Look out for the PONY Academy logo on our features. There could be a PONY Academy paper on that subject soon, to gain you a certificate!



Be a great rider

- 6 **HELP! MY PONY WON'T JUMP AT SHOWS!**
- 8 **COOL CANTERING**
Insider advice
- 10 **PERFECT WORKOUT**
Some fab exercises to try

8-9



Pony care explained

- 20 **JOINT EFFORT!**
They're important, you know
- 24 **SLURP ALERT!**
It's feeding, but not as we know it
- 28 **THE GREAT WORMING QUIZ**
Test your knowledge!

10-11



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Great reading

- 26 JESS MENDOZA WRITES!
- 32 KATIE'S PROMISE part two
- 56 PHOTOSTORY
Horrible Habits Part one
- 58 READERS' REAL LIVES
"I won a KBIS Bursary!"
- 68 READERS' REAL LIVES
"My pony cost me my best friend!"

4-5



Other stuff

- 4 MEET TWIGGY AND FRIENDS!
- 12 WIN! ARIAT BOOTS!
- 14 CELEBRITY QUIZ!
- 18 HAPPY TO HELP!
- 44 NEW STUFF
- 54 CHARITY ROUNDUP
- 63 THE PONY SURVEY
- 70 PONIES FOR SALE
- 75 WORDSEARCH

14-15



Fab
PONY
posters!



Chase me Charlie!

Track down mini-Chaz in this issue, email us (pony@djmurphy.co.uk) the page number and your name and address, and whoever's first will get this exclusive Charlie mouse mat!



Win this
Chaz mat!

SEPTEMBER
2015

60 SUBSCRIBE TO PONY
AND YOU'LL GET YOUR PONY
MAG BEFORE IT HITS THE SHOPS!



See yourself in PONY!

16 NOSY PONY
22 PONYGRAM
30 VIP CLUB
46 SHOUT OUT
50 IN THE FRAME
62 FESS UPS
66 HELP!

22

66-67

62

50

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WELL THAT JUST
WON'T DO, WILL IT!

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and tell us the shop,
street name and town
where it's missing, and
we'll be all over it!

WHO'S WHO?

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ON THE WEB ...



Back to School with PONY



Looking for a new bag for a new school year?
Head over to the PONY Shop – whether you're
looking for a rucksack, messenger bag or gym
bag, we've got it covered!



#SHOWPONIES

We wanted to see your
cleanest, smartest show
ponies! Head over to page
22 to see them!

Twiggy's Tales

PONY blogger Twiggy has been getting up to all sorts of
fun recently with her BFF Mr Kipling – make sure to head
over to ponymag.com to keep up-to-date with all her
latest happenings!



....PLUS LOADS MORE AT WWW.PONYMAG.COM!

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* Over 13s only



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ANDROID



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App Store

PONY Magazine
is available as an App!

TWIGGY'S NEW ROLE!

When Twiggy was orphaned in 2014 at only a few days old, her future looked bleak. Would such a tiny pony be able to survive? Luckily, the answer was YES! Guardian angel Caroline not only took in Twiggy to raise by hand, she had a whole career mapped out for the tiny orphan!

PONY PALS

Caroline runs Pony Pals, which specialises in therapy ponies. These tiny ambassadors visit care homes and hospitals, to the delight of the residents. Imagine waking up and seeing a pony in your sitting room!

All members of Pony Pals take it in turns to visit care homes and hospitals, and they can also turn their hooves to children's parties – the ultimate for mums wanting that something different. The team is also available for any special event!



The Pony Pals pony bus!

Mr Chedder meets a resident



WORKING THERAPY PONIES

It may seem cute to see Pony Pals visiting their fans in care homes, but there is a very serious and important side to their work. For many older people who no longer communicate with those around them, the presence of a pony can have a profound effect. One gentleman opened his eyes for the first time in ages when Super Noodles put his head in his lap.

For many residents the ponies bring back lovely memories, and encourage them to talk with other residents about their lives. Activities include grooming and plaiting (encouraging hand-to-eye skills) and leading, which motivates exercise. This team is not called therapy ponies for nothing!



If you've read mini pony Twiggy's blogs on ponymag.com, you'll know all about this pint-sized bundle of fun. Here's more about Twiggy and her amazing friends!

TWIGGY AND CO!

MEET THE TEAM

TWIGGY

She may be the smallest of the four Pony Pals, but Twiggy is most definitely in charge! A tiny bay filly with three white socks, Twiggy thinks Caroline's her mum! Like any child, Twiggy pushes the boundaries, and is constantly getting into trouble. But how could anyone get cross with Twiggy?



It's not all work!
Time for a snooze

MR KIPLING

The new kid on the block, Mr Kipling bucks the trend at Pony Pals – simply because he's not a pony! This yearling miniature donkey has totally palled up with Twiggy, and the pair can always be seen grazing cheek-to-cheek, as true friends do. As an asine specialist, Mr Kipling already has several nativity play gigs under his belt, and has future Palm Sunday appearances booked!



"Don't think I
can't hear you!"

MR CHEDDAR

Born in 2012, this palomino is a true professional, and takes his job – being stroked – very seriously. Able to turn his hooves to practically anything, Mr Cheddar is the big cheese of Pony Pals!



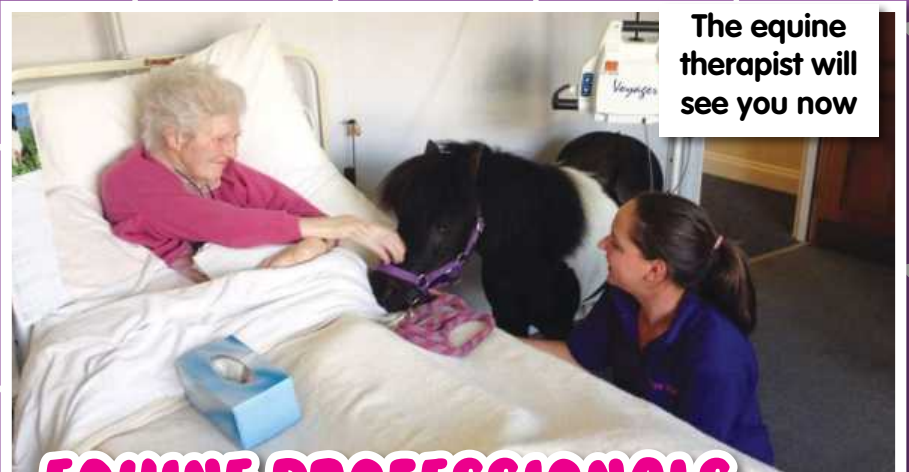
Pretty perfect
palomino

The unflappable Super Noodles!



SUPER NOODLES

Handsome piebald Noodles has just returned to Pony Pals after a career change – being ridden and driven – but he's taken to his old job like a complete pro and is Pony Pals' number one for pony parties!



The equine
therapist will
see you now

EQUINE PROFESSIONALS

It may seem a simple thing – to lead a small pony or donkey into a home or hospital – but these are specially trained professionals. Using relaxation techniques, Caroline trains her team to enjoy being stroked and cuddled, and only equines who enjoy being fussed over make the grade.

They need to stand quietly, and they quickly get used to situations most ponies never encounter. Travelling in a lift is no problem, and they are accustomed to expect the unexpected – such as falling medical equipment, flying cushions and wheelchairs whizzing past at speed!



Pest control comes under the remit of rescued ginger tom Vincent.

The Pony Pals security team: Cocker Spaniels Jenny and Otto.



Read Twiggy's blog and find out more about Pony Pals at ponymag.com!

HELP!

MY PONY WON'T JUMP AT SHOWS!

Some jumping lessons will help



1 YOUR CONFIDENCE DESERTS YOU

If you lack confidence, your pony will feel it, and his confidence will melt away, too! It's easy to say *stay confident*, but when you go into the ring, and you're faced with all those jumps, it's not so simple, is it? And if you find yourself in the ring with your heart thumping in your chest, you probably stop riding, leaving it all up to your pony, who feels – quite rightly – deserted and let down.

So how do you keep your confidence when jumping? By doing your homework. All the people who jump clear rounds don't trust to luck, they have lessons, they practise, they started with the very low, clear round jumping competitions and worked their way up. So you need to do the same.

Have jumping lessons with someone who knows about jumping. Keep the jumps small until you and your pony can fly over them, jump all types of fences and combinations so nothing phases you. Then you'll be confident about riding and jumping in that show ring!

Combinations shouldn't phase you



We've all been there: your pony flies over jumps at home but as soon as you get into the show ring, he won't even jump the first fence – or if he does, he gets eliminated further along the course!



Oh no! Does this happen to you?

SO WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

It could be one, more or all, of several reasons:

- 1 Your confidence deserts you as soon as you enter the ring, and you ride differently – or not at all!
- 2 The jumps at the show have big wings and lots of fillers, so they don't look at all like the jumps at home.
- 3 You and your pony are not used to jumping a course of jumps, just one or two at home.
- 4 Your warm-up has not been very good, so your pony is unprepared for jumping.
- 5 Your pony is distracted by the atmosphere at the showground, and isn't paying attention to you.

HAVE A PLAN!

Do any of the above strike a chord? So how can you get round these problems? You need a plan – and you're in luck, because we've got one (five, actually) for you!

2 THE JUMPS AT SHOWS FREAK OUT YOUR PONY!

This is a common cause of ponies refusing fences. You expect me to jump *THAT*? So you need your pony to get used to proper jumps. If you haven't any fillers and wings at home, enter the clear round competitions at shows. Your pony will get used to seeing well-made jumps, and you can usually enter more than once, so you can familiarise him with all those fillers!

Start small – remember, you're not there to win a rosette, but to school your pony, so concentrate on how you ride your round.

Yeah, the jumps don't look quite the same...



3 YOU AND YOUR PONY ARE NOT USED TO JUMPING A COURSE OF JUMPS – JUST ONE OR TWO AT HOME

So now you need to learn to ride a course! Again, the clear round jumping will help, but you can also help yourself at home. Even if you only have a few poles, lay these on the ground in place of jumps. Now pretend these are your jumps and treat each one as such. Get your approach right, and your turns. Make sure you meet each jump (pole) dead centre, looking at your next one for a good approach. Ride at trot first, before you start cantering. It's how you ride the course that's important, not how fast you go!



Ride the course, not the jumps

4 YOUR WARM UP WASN'T AS GOOD AS IT COULD HAVE BEEN

Warming up for jumping is important preparation. Your aim is to get your pony listening to you, and thinking forward over the jumps, rather than just seeing how high he can jump. Once he has stretched, get him cantering on both reins, then ask him to go over an upright jump on both reins. Now ask a friend to make the jump a spread, and ask your pony to jump that from both reins. Jump in the other direction, too (make sure the jump is safe and set up correctly for that direction).

Don't overdo your warm up. You don't want to tire your pony – but you should time it so that when you have finished, you are almost ready to go into the ring. Standing about will encourage your pony to switch off!



Get your warm up right

5 YOUR PONY IS DISTRACTED BY ALL THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE SHOWGROUND

Showgrounds are lively places, with plenty of new noises and horses to talk to – at least that's how your pony sees them. Replicate this scenario at home. Play loud music while you school, get all your friends to line-up along the manège fence and wave and clap so your pony gets used to it all. Don't freak him out – start gently if he's terrified! And why not go to a couple of shows to just ride around the showground, to help him acclimatise? It will all help.

Get those friends working for you!



Use clear round jumping to school
pic: Anaslasija Popova

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR JUMPING – AND HAVE FUN!

Log on to ponymag.com for some top tips on jumping at shows!

COOL CANTERING

WE'VE GOT SOME IDEAS FOR
FIRST-TIME CANTERERS — AS
WELL AS OLD HANDS!

PROBLEM-SOLVING

If your pony doesn't canter, don't simply ask for a faster trot. The faster your pony trots, the more unbalanced he will become, and it will be difficult for him to change pace. Slow down and ask for canter again in the next corner – but a bit firmer this time!

STILL NO CANTER?

- Is your trot active? (But not too fast.)
- Do you have a rein contact? (Dropping your contact can encourage your pony to trot.)
- Do you have *too much* rein contact? (If the brakes are on, your pony will just trot slower.)
- Are you rising to the trot? (If so, your pony will stay in trot!)

CANTERING INSIDE

It's likely you'll have your first canter in a school or manège, on a pony who is used to first-timers. Here's how to ask for canter!

CANTER ON!

When a pony canters, he doesn't go faster, he *changes* how his legs move. You need to stop rising to the trot, sit tall, feel on your inside rein and use both your legs – with your outside leg slightly further back. This tells your pony to canter, and to start cantering with his *outside* hind leg.

WHEN TO ASK

Ask for canter as you approach a corner. Asking for canter on a bend helps your pony strike off on the correct leg.



CANTERING OUTSIDE

Never cantered outside on a hack before? It's a bit more scary, what with all those open spaces! Here's how to have a great first experience.

- Give yourself a confidence boost by cantering on a pony who's slightly lazy, rather than a pony with no brakes! Much better to push on, and know you have some control.
- If cantering in a crowd, go near the front and ease into canter from a trot. This is better than your pony thinking he's getting left behind and bounding into canter from a standstill.
- Don't race! Not only does it get the ponies excited, it can be dangerous if they kick out at each other, or if your pony hates to be overtaken.
- Cantering up a hill is more comfortable than going downhill.
- Cantering uphill slows your pony down, too!
- Just as you eased into canter, ease back down into trot to avoid sudden braking and turns.

ALWAYS...

... make sure it is safe to canter. Can you see the way ahead? Are you on a bridlepath or in an open space with no walkers, pushchairs, dogs, etc?

... keep your control. Better to go too slow than risk your pony going too fast and taking hold.

... stay in single file when riding with friends, to keep calm.

... know where you're cantering. Strange places can hold dangers and surprises such as rabbit holes, ditches, rubbish and puddles.

AND WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

You can adopt a forward seat when cantering, but first you need to learn how to sit to the canter. Sit up, look where you are going and move your hips along with the movement of the pony. Keep your weight in your heels. If you grip with your heels, guess what? Your pony will think you want to go faster!

FEELING A BIT WOBBLY?

That's understandable – cantering is very different from trotting. Simply put your reins in one hand and pull yourself down into the saddle by hooking your other hand onto the pommel. Sit up and keep moving your hips along with the rhythm. Remember, your shoulders should stay still!

CANTERING IS A GREAT PACE. ONCE YOU'VE GOT USED TO IT, YOU'LL WANT TO CANTER ALL THE TIME (BUT YOUR PONY WON'T!)

PERFECT W

WHY THE EXERCISES?

- Mounted exercises are brilliant for giving riders confidence in the saddle.
- They develop a riders' ability to move their upper bodies, while keeping their lower riding position correct – or as correct as they can.
- Mounted exercises help riders become aware of different parts of their bodies, and how they move when they shouldn't!
- Mounted exercises are fun!

EVER TRIED SOME IN-THE-SADDLE EXERCISES? HERE ARE SOME TOP TIPS TO GET THE MOST OUT OF A WORKOUT!

WATCHPOINT!

- *Mounted exercises should only be carried out under supervision – ask your riding instructor whether you can include some on your lessons, or whether your Pony Club instructor could incorporate some at your next rally.*
- Always ensure ponies used for mounted exercises are quiet and familiar with people moving about in the saddle. Young and nervous ponies are not suitable – and it is not fair to try exercises on these ponies.
- *Mounted exercises need extra help – any which involve the rider letting go of the reins should ONLY be carried out with a helper holding the pony's head!*



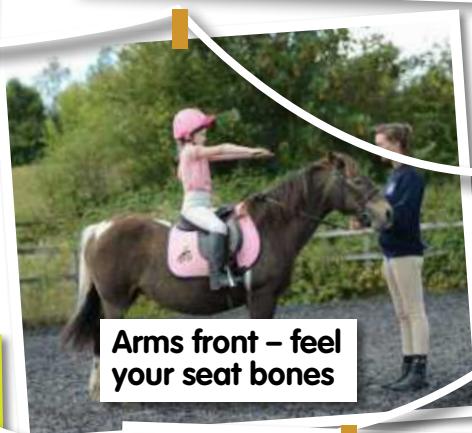
Around-the-world one



ATW two



Arms up – strengthens the back and seat



Arms front – feel your seat bones



Swing – don't drop your arms!



Arms to the side – keep them level with your shoulders

BE FUSSY!

Lifting your arms? Put some effort in and lift them high! Stretching your arms out in front or to the side? Make sure they are level with your shoulders. Keep your weight in your heels – don't let those heels drift upwards as you will become less stable in the saddle. When reaching to touch ears, toes and tails, do so with determination. And don't forget to breathe! Holding your breath won't help – breathe steadily and regularly.

WORKOUTS!

BE AN EXPERT!

Want to be a mounted exercises guru? Make sure your mounted position is as perfect as it can be. Be aware of different parts of your body – your head, your seatbones, your legs. As you carry out each exercise, see which parts of your body moves. Obviously, your upper body will move mostly, but how about your lower body? It will probably move too, and this is understandable at first. As you progress, you should find that your lower body moves less and less, and you can maintain your position. This is when your exercises become really beneficial!



This tests your balance!



Keep your knees straight!



ATW three



ATW four



and you're back in the room!



Keep your lower leg position!



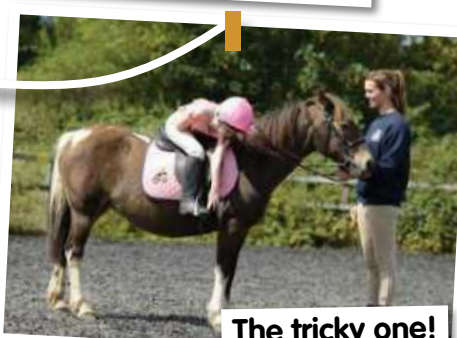
Heels down!



Keep those reins!

WATCHPOINT!

Don't overstretch. It is best to build up gradually. If at first you can't touch your pony's ears, for example, don't worry. Stretch as far forward as you can, while keeping your lower leg position. This is better than reaching the ears and compromising your position. You will find that you will be able to reach further every time you try.



The tricky one!

REMEMBER...

... if you feel unsafe, or nervous, just do what you are comfortable doing. You can always go a little further later, when you feel more confident!

WIN!

7 pairs
to be
won!

A PAIR OF **ARIAT JUNIOR BROMONT BOOTS** WORTH £159.99!

The Ariat Bromont H20 Tall Boots are a smart leather riding boot that use Ariat's 4LR technology to ensure your feet stay comfortable, both in and out of the saddle! A waterproof membrane protects against unpredictable rain showers and the full-length zipper and stretch leather back panel makes them easy to wear. These field style boots feature a smart lace design and look perfect for lessons, hacking out and competitions.

These boots are chosen by leading riders including, Mary and Emily King, Nicola Wilson and Zara Phillips – and now you too can get your feet in a pair!

The Ariat Junior Bromont H20 Tall Boots are available in black only, in junior sizes 13 – 4, and in regular or full widths. Please state foot size and calf height and width on entry. To find out your calf width simply measure around the widest part of the calf over breeches and socks, and to find out the height sit in a chair and measure from the floor to the back of your knee.

How to win

Simply answer our question and tie-breaker then turn to page 53 for the entry form!

Q: Name one of the famous riders that wear Ariat Bromont Boots.

Tie-breaker: What would you call a new design of super-smart, long riding boots?

These gorgeous boots will smarten up your wardrobe!

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To enter, fill out the entry form on page 53, enter online at ponymag.com or scan the QR code with your smartphone. For all competition Ts & Cs go to ponymag.com.



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Harry Charles

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Sebastian Oakley Photography



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NAF
★★★★★



The true or false

Celebrity Spotter Challenge!

Think you know
your horsey
celebs? Prove
it by taking our
True or False
Celebrity Spotter
Challenge!



1

Mary King is scared of thunderstorms. She never rides when it's stormy, and once withdrew from Badminton when bad weather was forecast

TRUE

FALSE



2

Tim Stockdale is a twin! He is older than his brother Ivan by 25 minutes

TRUE

FALSE

4

The first Badminton Horse Trials were held in 1966

TRUE

FALSE

3

Clare Balding's beloved dog, Archie, is a Tibetan Spaniel

TRUE

FALSE

5

Top dressage paralympian Natasha Baker was interviewed in PONY Magazine when she was only 14

TRUE

FALSE

6

Oliver Townend had a pony called Cool Dude

TRUE

FALSE



7

Harry Meade is the son of triple Olympic gold medalist Richard Meade

TRUE

FALSE

9

First millionaire showjumper Milton used to blow raspberries if he didn't want to do something.

TRUE

FALSE



8

Sophie Christiansen has a first class degree in Maths

TRUE

FALSE



10

William Fox-Pitt is a descendant of the Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger

TRUE

FALSE



11

Jessica Mendoza is allergic to long-coated dogs

TRUE

FALSE

12

The All-England Jumping Course at Hickstead held its first show in 1960.

TRUE

FALSE



13

Ben Maher was born on April 30, and his star sign is Taurus

TRUE

FALSE



14



Carl Hester learnt to ride on a donkey which he rode to the village shop

TRUE

FALSE



17

Charlotte Dujardin took up dressage with a horse bought from her grandmother's inheritance

TRUE

FALSE

15

'Piggy' French was so nicknamed by her sisters who, when she was born, thought she looked like Winnie the Pooh's chum, Piglet

TRUE

FALSE



16

William Funnell's full name is William Ross Norman Funnell

TRUE

FALSE

18

Scott Brash is based at a yard in East Sussex

TRUE

FALSE

20

Mary King has competed in five Olympic Games

TRUE

FALSE

19

If Peter Charles hadn't been a showjumper, he'd had loved to have played football for Liverpool

TRUE

FALSE



21

Zara Phillips and her mother, The Princess Royal, have both been European Eventing Champions

TRUE

FALSE

How did you do?



Got over 20 right? You are SOOOOO the ace Celebrity Spotter!

How about the other questions?

1. False.
2. False. The first Badminton was held in 1949.
3. False. Archie is a Tibetan Terrier.
4. False. The pony was called Cool Mule.
5. False.
6. False. Mary has competed in six Olympic Games!
7. False.
8. False. Ben Maher's birthday is January 30th, which makes him an Aquarius.
9. False. Scott Brash is based in West Sussex.
10. False.
11. False.
12. False.
13. False.
14. False.
15. False.
16. True.
17. True.
18. False.
19. True.
20. False.
21. True.

Questions 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 21 are all true!



Nosy pony!

Horsey news, views and goss!

READING CLUB

Valegro, Champion Horse by Carl Hester, tells the story of the most famous dressage horse of today – from foal to international stardom, in a beautiful coffee-table format. This modern day rags-to-riches story is accompanied by wonderful photographs of Valegro – many published for the first time.

Valegro, Champion Horse is published by Third Millennium, price £20 hardback.



Horse trespassers



New law to help horses

The Control of Horses Act 2015 has come into force in England. (There is similar legislation in place in Wales, but not Scotland or Northern Ireland.) This new act allows landowners who find horses and ponies which have been put on their land to inform the local police and – if they can find them – their owners. If no owner comes forward within four days, the landowner is legally able to take possession of the horses.

This Act allows landowners to sell or rehome the horses privately and it is hoped it will make irresponsible horse owners, who fly-graze their horses on other people's land, think twice about it, as they can quickly lose their horses!

Riding in the big smoke



It's cake time!

Happy Birthday Ross Nye Stables! The famous London riding school, based at Hyde Park and featured in PONY in February, was started in 1965 by Australian Stockman Ross Nye, and has been BHS Approved since 1969. Ross Nye received the British Horse Society Award of Merit in 1995, in recognition of outstanding services to riding!

Clever Trevor!

Irish rider Trevor Breen won the Boomerang Trophy in the Equestrian.com Derby at Hickstead. Following his victory last year on Adventure De Kannan, Trevor once again won the unique event on his first ride, Loughnatousa W B – who jumped the only clear round!

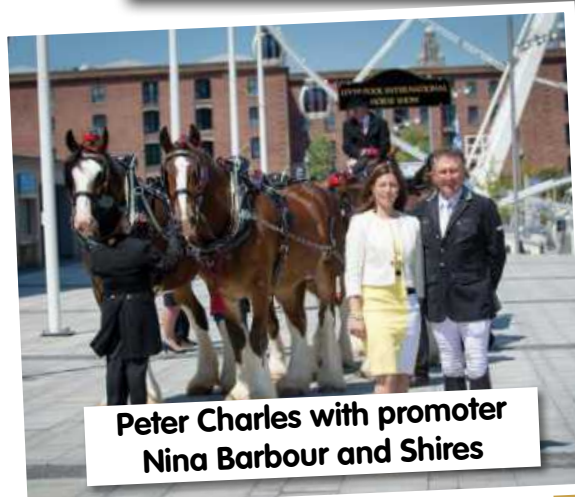
This amazing horse won the Derby in 2012, under his previous rider, Paul Beecher. Five riders had four faults each: William Whitaker (Glenavadra Brilliant), Billy Twomey (Diaghilev), Steven Franks (Carlow Cruiser), Nigel Coupe (Golvers Hill) and Harriet Nuttall (A Touch Imperious). pic: George Gunn Photography



Over the final jump to victory!



THE MISADVENTURES OF CHARLIE!



Peter Charles with promoter Nina Barbour and Shires



Peter in action!

Looking forward to a lorra, lorra fun!

Liverpool will host a new international horse show on January 1st-3rd 2016, at the Liverpool Echo Arena on the city's historic waterfront. It promises to be the hottest event for the world's best showjumpers preparing for next year's Rio Olympic Games.

As well as jumping, the Shetland Pony Grand National will be doing its usual thing, and there will be a display from six Shire horses, thundering across the arena. The Bootleg Beatles will provide some Liverpudlian music! For more details go to www.echoarena.com.



ARIAT

ARIAT Awesome Pony of the Month

WIN
THESE
BOOTS!



nominated by Ellie

My 15hh Connemara X, Paddy, has taken me from jumping a little cross pole to one metre! He has boosted my jumping confidence sooooo much, it's unbelievable! Paddy is really gentle and kind and is always happy to jump what I ask him. He definitely deserves to be *Ariat Awesome Pony of the Month*!

New Prize!

The Heritage III Zip boot features the support and comfort of the 4LR technology and the Duratread sole's flexible performance. Superior leather and craftsmanship and the antiqued brass zip all add up to an elegant boot! In black, chocolate or brown, in sizes 3 - 8.5. RRP £114.99

Nominate your fave pony by emailing pony@djmurphy.co.uk, telling us why they deserves the title *Ariat Awesome Pony of the Month*! Don't forget to send us a great picture!

Happy to help!

Fancy finding new ways to be around ponies and helping others at the same time? Why not try volunteering!



You'll make loads of new friends!

All about YELA

The Young Equestrian Leaders award (YELA) is an exciting award scheme for young people, for the British Equestrian Federation (BEF). It is designed to increase and encourage the number of young people volunteering in the equestrian industry, as well as recognise the time and effort young volunteers give to equestrianism. The award scheme helps shape young volunteers' experience, so they can become equestrian leaders of the future.

YELA runs over three progressive levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold.



Volunteering is very rewarding...

Bronze award: 20 hours of volunteering. Introduces skills in responsibility, organisation and communication.

Silver award: Bronze award, plus an additional 40 hours volunteering.

Gold award: 120 hours volunteering in total, plus encouraging leadership and the planning and delivery of a specific project.

Many different pathways are available for YELA candidates, so there is plenty of variety to choose from! Some of these include coaching, horse care, fundraising and training and mentoring other volunteers.

DYK?

The YELA award scheme is open to all young people between the ages of 13 and 25.



...you can help others do things they wouldn't normally do!

Candidate quotes!

Check out what some YELA candidates think about the scheme:

"YELA has been challenging, but in a good way, and so rewarding. The award has encouraged me to branch out of my comfort zone to meet new challenges and new people. I can honestly say it's been one of the best things I have ever signed up for."

Katie Midgley,
YELA Candidate

"The most important thing I have gained from doing YELA is confidence. I struggled with shyness but the scheme has encouraged me to go to new places and meet new people."

Melissa Call, YELA Candidate



You can learn valuable skills

What do I have to do?

There are many places at which you can volunteer, and many different activities you can do. From helping out at your local RDA centre, grooming, tacking up, mucking out and leading rides, to helping at a Pony Club rally or pole picking at a British Showjumping event, there's something for everyone. There are 18 BEF member bodies to choose from. Visit the YELA website for the full list.

DYK?

If you are a Pony Club member, you can start volunteering as part of your Pony Club achievement badge.

What can I achieve?

As well as achieving a Bronze, Silver or Gold award, you will be adding valuable experience to your CV! The scheme will bring you challenges, develop your equestrian knowledge as well as your life skills. Plus, you'll get to spend hours with ponies and getting involved in horsey activities!

Visit www.ponymag.com for more info!

Helping out at Pony Club rallies!

Thanks to YELA for the pics!

Joint effort!

A pony's joints are very important and looking after them properly is essential to keeping him sound, as well as for his overall health. How much do you know about joints? Test yourself!

1.

Which of these best describes what your pony's joints do?

- A. Joints connect bones together.
- B. Joints enable the skeleton to move.
- C. Joints support the bones.

2.

Why is it so important to keep joints healthy?

- A. So that ponies do not become stiff and sore in their joints, and so they can work and move around comfortably.
- B. So that joints do not wear out too quickly.
- C. Because ponies won't be able to be ridden if they have issues with their joints.

3.

Which of these are signs that a pony might have trouble in his joints?

- A. He feels unbalanced when you ride him, he doesn't lift one leg as much as the others when he moves, he has hard lumps on his joints or they look swollen.
- B. He is very slow when you ride him, he stamps his feet often and swishes his tail more than normal and he doesn't always finish his food.
- C. He's fine when you ride him but he lays down a lot in his stable, and he often rests one of his hind legs.

4.

What are windgalls?

- A. They are small, hard bumps ponies can get on their legs if they have been ridden on hard ground or done lots of fast work.
- B. It's a condition that mostly affects older ponies, where they can't breathe in as much oxygen as younger ponies so their circulation isn't as efficient and their hooves get cold.
- C. Windgalls are soft swellings that appear just above the fetlock on the forelegs and sometimes on the hind legs of older or hardworking horses.

5.

What is arthritis also known as?

- a. Degenerative joint disease
- b. Stiff leg syndrome
- c. Bad bones



6.

What can you do to help best preserve your pony's joints?

- A. Ride him on the road once a week to get his joints used to hard surfaces, so if he's ridden on hard ground it won't affect him.
- B. Hose his legs down each time you ride, no matter what the weather is.
- C. Be careful of the surface and terrain you ride on. Check the surface is safe, and is suitable for the activity you're doing. Also, a special supplement in his feed could help him.

7.

What should you check for in your pony's joints that could indicate a problem?

- A. Cold limbs and unwillingness to lift up his feet.
- B. Fluid build up in joints, heat in the joints and lumps suggesting bone growths on the joints.
- C. Whether he is standing evenly on all four legs or not.



Feel your pony's joints

8.

How many bones are there in a pony's skeleton?

- A. 150
- B. 325
- C. 205

9.

Which ponies are most likely to suffer from joint problems?

- A. Veteran ponies or ponies that have worked hard for the majority of their lives.
- B. Ponies who live out as they move around all the time.
- C. Young ponies that are more excitable and are more likely to injure themselves.

Answers

- 1 = B
- 2 = A
- 3 = A
- 4 = C
- 5 = A
- 6 = C
- 7 = B
- 8 = C
- 9 = A

How did you do?

0-3

Uh-oh, major swotting up needed here! You need to up your knowledge on joints, so you can spot when a pony might be uncomfortable or have a problem in his joints. It's valuable knowledge!

4-7

Good try. You know a bit about joints, but you could do more to make sure you are looking after them as best you can. Your pony will appreciate your extra effort!

8 or more

Well done! You clearly know your stuff! Keep up the good work and look after your pony's joints – it's very important!



PONY Gram

This month we wanted to see your best

#SHOWPONIES

Check out some of our faves below!

If you'd like to feature as Instagrammer of the Month, direct message us your best pic on our Instagram page [@ponymaguk](#), telling us all about your fave pony, or your proudest moments!



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@EQUESTRIAN_COUNTRY_GIRL



@MEGWILLIS_SJ



@COUNTING_OUR_STRIDES

Instagrammer of the month



Our Instagrammer of the Month for September is [@mymareautumn](#)

"This is me and my 13.2hh pony Autumn. She is the best pony anyone could wish for. She has taught me so much! We love dressage and jumping. I don't know what I would do without her!"

PONY FAVE!



@DAPPLE.CONNEMARA

If you want to feature as Instagrammer of the Month, direct message us your best pic on our Instagram page

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telling us all about your fave pony, or your proudest moments!

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TECHNIQUES & SPILLS

What are licks?

Licks for horses and ponies are edible, super tasty treats that can help keep your pony entertained and happy. They come in loads of different flavours, shapes and sizes and can be used for lots of purposes. Some ponies go totally bonkers for licks, so why not spice up your pony's day and see how he likes it?

Which lick?

There are lots of types of licks for different occasions. Some of these include:

In the field: These often come in tubs so they can be left in the field safely, or can be tied to the fence. They are high in vitamins and minerals that are essential to your pony's diet. They can be especially handy during the summer months if the weather is hot and the grass is poor.

In the stable: These licks can be very handy for stable-kept ponies. There are different types of holders for stable licks – ones that fix to the wall or door, ones that hang from the ceiling and even ones that rotate when the pony goes to lick, providing him with a game to entertain him, as well as something tasty!

Treats: Licks can be used as treats. Some come in small hand-held tubs with lids so you can offer them to your pony as a reward.



No boredom for me today!



Slow ale

DYK?

Ponies who crib bite in the stable can benefit from a lick as it is thought to reduce the habit.



Ponies can enjoy licks in the field

WE WANT TO SEE YOUR FAVE PONIES ENJOYING THEIR LICKS! SEND US A PIC OR A SHORT VIDEO CLIP TO THE USUAL PONY ADDRESS AND YOU COULD FEATURE ON [PONYMAG.COM](http://ponymag.com)!

Types of licks

Salt

Some licks are mostly salt, which provides essential minerals that ponies can lack in their everyday diets. Have you ever seen a pony lick soil or tree bark? This could be a sign that he is not getting enough salt and a salt lick could be beneficial.

Fly repelling

Garlic works as a natural fly repellent. Some field licks have garlic in them which not only provides vits and mins, but helps your pony repel those nasty summer flies! Clever!

Calming

Some licks are designed to have a calming effect on ponies, and contain ingredients such as magnesium.

Suitable for laminitics

Some licks are suitable for laminitics, and help provide them with essential vits and mins they need while on a restricted diet.

Offering access to a suitable lick, for up to two hours a day, for example, will offer nutrients without the risk of them overindulging.

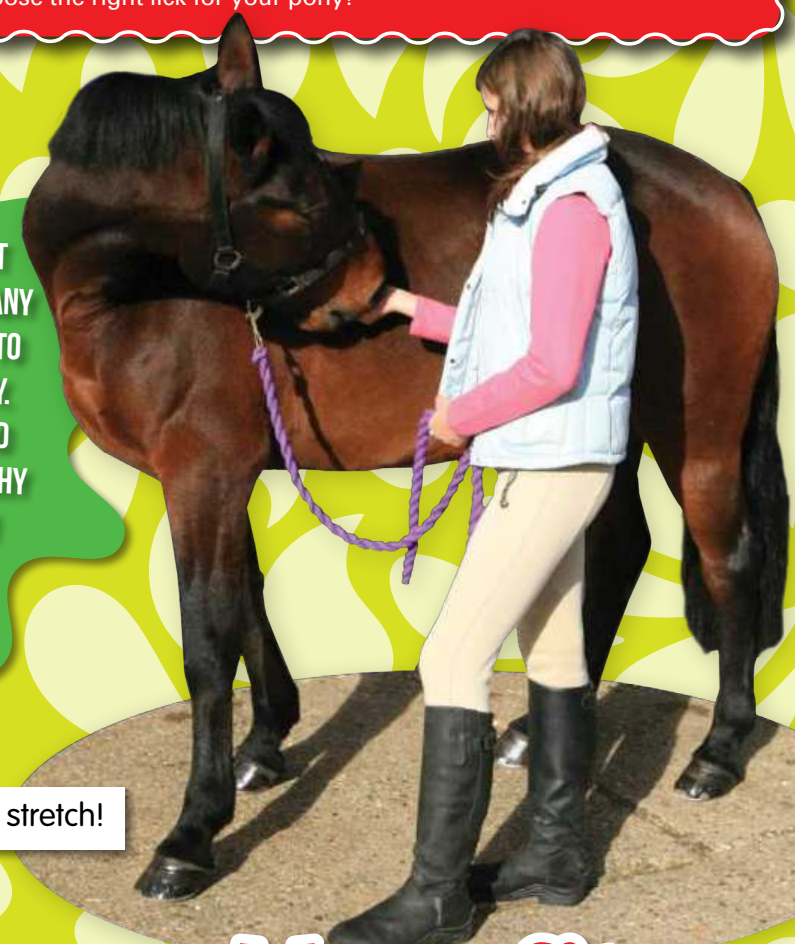
Overall health

Lots of licks can benefit your pony's health by offering vitamins, minerals and antioxidants to his diet. Licks which are flavoured may contain higher levels of sugar. While this is not a problem for most ponies, it could be for very overweight ponies or ponies who are prone to laminitis. Make sure you choose the right lick for your pony!



Licks = tonnes
of fun!

PONIES LOVE TO EAT, FACT! BUT
WHEN THEY CAN'T BE EATING, MANY
MIGHT LOVE A LICK TO
KEEP THEM BUSY.
READ ON TO FIND
OUT ALL ABOUT WHY
LICKS ARE FAB!



Feel the stretch!

Uses and benefits

Boredom

Licks can help bust boredom as they give ponies something to concentrate on, as consuming licks takes time and patience on the pony's part! Licks can be great for ponies on box rest.

Distraction

Ponies who are worried by the vet or farrier could benefit from a lick to distract them. A lick may be more appealing than feed he might receive regularly, like hay.

Equine stretching

Licks can be used to aid equine stretching exercises. Hold a hand held lick at your pony's shoulder or near his hooves to encourage him to stretch to reach it.

Jess's

SHOWJUMPING
DIARY

Jess enjoys her first senior team win in Rotterdam



Pix: Lewis Harding

AN EXCITING COMPETITION

In my last update, I had just had the call-up for the British Nations Cup team in Rotterdam, and I am thrilled to say that we won! It was only my second senior team appearance and it was such an honour to ride alongside team mates Ben Maher, Michael Whitaker and Joe Cleo.

Spirit ever-so nearly jumped a double clear but it was a really tough course and she was unlucky to have one down in the first round. When we went clear in the second though, our team knew we could be no worse than second. In fact, it went down to the wire. France was leading right until the end, until Jerome Hurel had one fence down with time penalties, which meant we won. It was so exciting!

girl power!

After Rotterdam, we moved on to an amazing new five-star show in Belgium with a crazy sounding name – Knokke – and all of us agreed it was one of the best yet. They had some great new ideas, including a team relay event where the girls took on the boys. I was riding Ramiro, my team mate was Gudrun Patteet from Belgium and we just were NOT going to let the guys beat us! We both put in really fast rounds to take victory. Great fun!



Podium time!

FUTURE SUPERSTAR?

The horses went so well at Knokke. Spirit was clear in the 1.50m class, Sam clear in 1.40m and Joey clear in the young horse class. So when I was asked which is my most exciting horse at the moment, it was really difficult to choose. In the end, I nominated Jonkers Van Sombeke. He is still only six, but I really think he will be a future superstar.

I can't wait...

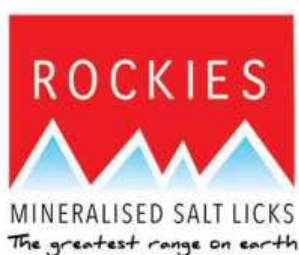
On a completely different note I've just about been able to snatch a few minutes at a time – between competitions – to do some of my own painting this summer, but I can't wait to see all your entries for PONY's art competition. It'll be an honour to judge it.

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Rockies' range of mineralised salt licks provides horses that don't require a bucketfeed (or don't need their full ration) with a simple and cost effective way of acquiring vitamins, minerals and trace elements.



Here are some top products...

Health Licks are available in five delicious flavours (carrot, apple, cherry, mint and garlic) and sized to fit into a 2kg holder. They contain salt and a range of minerals selected for horses. MagnaCalm contains bioavailable magnesium and is designed to counter deficiency, which can cause behavioural issues. It's a great way of providing horses that don't receive a bucketfeed with a calorie free source of magnesium.

Field & Stable Block is cost effective and great for groups of horses and ponies who live out. It's packed full of vitamins, minerals and trace elements. It's ideal for the multi horse owner, and costs from just 3p per day per horse to use.



To find out more about Rockies' range of licks, go to...

www.rockies.co.uk, email info@rockies.co.uk or call 01606 595025

The great worming quiz

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WORMING HORSES AND PONIES? TEST YOURSELF WITH OUR GREAT WORMING QUIZ!



3

True or false?

A. You don't have to worm ponies who live in stables as worms live in fields

True ☐ False ☐

B. It doesn't matter when you worm your pony

True ☐

False ☐

C. Picking up poo from a pony's paddock once a year helps to keep down the worm burden

True ☐ False ☐

D. All ponies suffer from worms

True ☐ False ☐



1

Which of these are real worms which live in your pony, and which are false?

A. Ascarids Real ☐ False ☐

B. Pinworms Real ☐ False ☐

C. Puffworms Real ☐ False ☐

D. Polarid Encystium Real ☐ False ☐

E. Redworms Real ☐ False ☐

F. Bots Real ☐ False ☐

G. Typiworms Real ☐ False ☐

4

When should you worm your pony for bots?

.....

5

Which of these is *not* a method you can use to worm your pony?

A: Syringe

B: Tablet

C: Powder

D: Injection

6

Why should you always check the active ingredients in your pony's wormer?

.....

2

How can you tell how much wormer to give your pony?

A: By weighing him by weigh-tape, and checking his weight on the worming instructions

B: The wormer packaging advises how much to give according to your pony's height

C: By breed. Different breeds should be given different amounts of wormer

7

Which of these are signs that a pony could be suffering from worm infestation?

- A: Weight loss B: Diarrhoea
- C: Sleepiness D: Colic
- E: Poor condition F: Friskiness



How did you do?

8. **Stacey worms Smidge**
Phew, where do we start?
 1. Always wear a riding hat when worming, for your own safety.
 2. Do not worm inside a stable in case your pony gets worried, rears and hits his head.
 3. Work out a proper worming regime, not just now-and-again.
 4. Poo-pick paddocks regularly.
 5. Only use fresh wormer and one suited to your pony's needs, not someone else's cast-off.
 6. Get help worming your pony if you can.
 7. Do not tie up your pony when worming, in case he pulls back.
 8. Take the cap off!
 9. Take care to throw the cap away – Smidge could have eaten the cap.
 10. Always use a weigh tape to find out how much to worm your pony, and adjust the syringe accordingly.
 11. Hold up your pony's head until he swallows ALL the wormer.
 12. Dispose of used worming syringes with care, do not just throw them away where other animals might be able to get to them.

1. Ascarids, Pinworms, Redworms and Bots are all real worms. The others are made up.
 2. To give your pony the correct amount of wormer you need to use a weigh tape to find out how much he weighs. Then look at the wormer packaging – it will tell you how much wormer to use for your pony's weight.
 3. A, B and C are false. D is true – all ponies suffer from worms whether they live in or out. It does matter when you worm your pony as certain worms need to be tackled at certain times of year. Poo picking is most effective when carried out regularly, not once a year.
 4. Ponies should be wormed for Bots in the autumn and winter.
 5. You would not worm your pony by injection, but all the others are methods of worming.
 6. Different active ingredients target different worms. Always use the right wormer depending on the time of year and which worms you are targeting. Also, worms can become resistant to active ingredients if used all the time, so it is good to use a different active ingredient to catch them out!
 7. Weight loss, diarrhoea, colic and poor condition are all signs that a pony may be suffering from worms.

8

Can you spot all the things which are wrong in this story about how to worm your pony?

Stacey worms Smidge

Returning from a ride, Stacey took off her hat and gloves and led her pony, Smidge, into the stable. She had decided to worm him – the paddock was full of dung so she thought it was probably a good thing. Stacey had bought a syringe of wormer and as she hadn't wormed Smidge for a while, she thought it would be best to give him the whole dose. Last time, she remembered, she had only half a syringe – her best friend Maddy had given her the remains of a syringe she'd found in her tack box.

Stacey was going to ask Maddy to help her with Smidge, but she couldn't find her so she decided to go it alone. Tying up Smidge to the ring on his manger, Stacey picked up the worming syringe and, grabbing Smidge's headcollar, she poked the syringe into the side of his mouth and squirted. Nothing happened – so she took a look and discovered she had forgotten to take the cap off! She flicked it off and the cap disappeared into Smidge's bed as Stacey tried again.

Unfortunately, almost immediately Smidge spat most of the wormer out again. Stacey decided he'd probably had enough, gave him a pat and threw the syringe in the bin. There, she thought, she wouldn't have to worry about that for a good long while!

Posed by models



Club!

1 **VIP**
0915

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VIP mini quiz!

Can you work these out? Use your code breaker to see if you got them right!

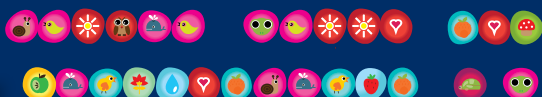
1. What colour is a pony who is black, brown and white?



2. What is a combination of two fences with no strides between them called?



3. Name the winning horse and rider of the 2015 Equestrian.com Hickstead Derby?



Top tip!

When riding, always your before your . to first, and then . Without the , you have to .

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KATIE'S PROMISE

PART 2

A two-part story
written exclusively
for PONY by Jane Ayres

Katie's not impressed with being left to look after her sister's horse, and she can't wait for sister Libby to return home!



I couldn't believe it. Having agreed reluctantly to look after my big sis Libby's horse, Parsifal (while she tours Europe after winning a TV talent show), I discovered that my plans to palm off his care to my pony mad best mate, Sara, had been foiled – because Parsifal won't let anyone but me ride him! So I've been stuck with the job – and I really don't like horses...

Luckily, after a major strop, Sara agreed to help out by giving me a riding lesson (since I was very rusty). So I let Parsifal trot for a bit and Sara winced as I bumped about in the saddle.

"Sit up straight," she yelled. "Your feet are too far forward in the stirrups."

I tried to do as she said but ended up bouncing about even more – and eventually I bounced right off over Parsifal's shoulder. To my irritation, Sara laughed. I swore, while Parsifal watched me with a bemused expression. I spent the evening studying Libby's horse books, trying to learn how to sit and apply aids more smoothly.

"Why not book some more riding lessons at the local stables – with Parsifal," suggested Mum. "I'll pay."

How could I refuse?

As the weeks passed, my riding improved. At first, Libby texted and emailed every day, telling us all about the new places she was visiting and how much she enjoyed touring. She always asked about Parsifal and I kept reassuring her he was happy and she had nothing to worry about. I soon got used to getting up early and fitting Parsifal in with my school work. We kind of tolerated each other, without displaying any signs of mutual affection. Sometimes, though, I actually enjoyed hacking out and I even admit learning to jump was good fun. However, I couldn't wait for Libby to come home and take over again.

The weeks became months and Libby's emails and texts became less frequent, and she rarely rang. I noticed she didn't always mention Parsifal. On the other hand, she regularly referred to a new friend, Luigi, another singer she'd met in Italy.

"Good that Libby is getting to know some different people," remarked Mum one morning over breakfast. Dad raised his eyebrows but went back to his newspaper. "She's emailed to say she's booked a flight and will be visiting here next weekend. I must make sure her room is all ready. Won't it be nice to see your sister again,

"Why not book some more riding lessons at the local stables – with Parsifal," suggested Mum. "I'll pay"

Katie?" But for some reason, I wasn't as excited about Libby's return as I

thought I would be.

Then, three days before she was due back, disaster struck. Even now, my memory of exactly what happened is hazy. I'd been schooling in the paddock and just untacked Parsifal and had started to groom him, when Mum shouted through the window that Sara was on the phone. I remember taking the dandy brush and hoof pick with me, so Parsifal wouldn't tread on them and hurt himself, then running into the house to have a natter with Sara. (I wanted all the gossip on her new boyfriend). We must have chatted for nearly an hour, and by the time she'd finished, Mum was yelling at me to come and get supper.

"You and Parsifal seem to be getting on well together," Mum had commented.

"OMG, Parsifal!" I screeched.

"I never finished grooming him!" Panicking, I rushed

"OMG, he's gone!" I wailed, my heart thumping madly



outside. To my horror, the gate was swinging wide open and the paddock was empty.

"OMG, he's gone!" I wailed, my heart thumping madly. We all searched the lane and nearby fields, waving our torches and calling. After an hour, Mum came home and rang the police and anyone we could think of who might have seen him.

"He can't have got far, love," Dad reassured, but I had visions of poor Parsifal lying in the road, hit by a car, and Libby screaming at me, because I'd killed her horse. I'd been careless, thoughtless, and selfish. My sister had trusted me with her horse and I'd let her down. She would never forgive me. I could never forgive myself.

Sara joined me the next day and together we searched again, while Dad drove further afield and Mum stayed at home by the phone, calling all the local vets, just in case the worst had happened.

"Someone must have seen him," Sara said. "A horse can't just vanish into thin air."

"What if he's been stolen?" I wondered. "He's quite valuable, you know."

By Friday night I was plunged into despair. There had been no news of Parsifal and Libby was due to arrive home late the following morning. Everything seemed hopeless. I set my alarm for 5.15am, determined to find him somehow before my sister came back to discover her beloved horse missing. I'd dragged myself out of bed, and prepared to cycle back down the roads we'd already checked, when I heard a familiar whinny outside. I almost trampled our poor tabby cat in my panic to see if it was Parsifal.

Standing innocently in the front garden, in the midst of Mum's favourite flowerbed, was a very dirty, muddy grey horse with a tangled mane and a filthy tail. He was hardly recognisable as Parsifal and he smelt just awful!

"Hey, boy, where on earth have you been?" I exclaimed, before throwing my arms round his neck and kissing his muddy face.

He looked a bit

startled but stood obediently until I regained my composure. "Right," I said in a sensible voice, "we'd better get you cleaned up."

My parents had, of course, been awoken by the commotion and joined me in their dressing gowns. Mum immediately fetched a bucket of warm water and some old tea towels and helped me with the clean-up operation. Dad said it was possible Parsifal had got stuck in a river or pond, which would explain the mud and the smell, but had managed to get himself out at last. I didn't care any more – all that mattered was that Parsifal was safe and back home.

After a lot of energy and effort, Parsifal finally looked his handsome self again and I was just about to jump in the shower when the phone rang. "Libby, sweetheart," I heard Mum say. "Where are you?"

When I came out of the bathroom my parents were sitting in the lounge, looking stunned.

"Has Libby's flight been delayed?" I asked uneasily.

"Libby won't be coming home," Mum replied.

"What's happened?" I asked anxiously. "Is she okay?"

Then she dropped the bombshell. "Actually, your sister has decided to settle in Rome with Luigi."

"Seriously?"

"She wants to bring him home to meet us all next month," said Dad, still in shock.

"It's probably just a crush on this guy," I suggested reassuringly. "She'll change her mind."

But when Libby phoned again later that night, and I spoke to her myself, it was clear she was madly in love with Luigi.

"But if you stay in Italy, what about Parsifal?" I asked.

She sounded embarrassed. "I can't really have him over here with me," she said. "Besides, I don't have time for a horse now, with my music career taking off."

I was gobsmacked. Was this the same Libby who had left us six months ago, crying because she had to leave her horse behind? Living away from home had certainly changed her.

"I'm really grateful to you for taking such good care of Parsifal for me," said Libby. "But I know you don't really like horses or riding and I should never have imposed on you in the first place." She sighed unhappily. "I'll just have to sell him."

Oddly, a voice that sounded suspiciously like mine said, "But you can't sell him."

"Why not?"

"Because I want to keep him." And in that moment I realised how much Parsifal meant to me. The idea of losing him, of no longer hearing him greet me with his impatient whinny in the mornings, was just far too awful to contemplate.

Well, eventually Libby married Luigi, and I got to keep Parsifal. More than that, I actually started entering jumping competitions on him – and winning. In fact, Sara tells me I'm in danger of becoming a horse-mad teenager after all.

Funny how things turn out, isn't it?

Libby sighed unhappily. "I'll just have to sell Parsifal"



THE END

Jane Ayres had her first short story published at the age of 14, and her many novels about horses are available from Amazon. Find out more at www.janeayres.blogspot.co.uk

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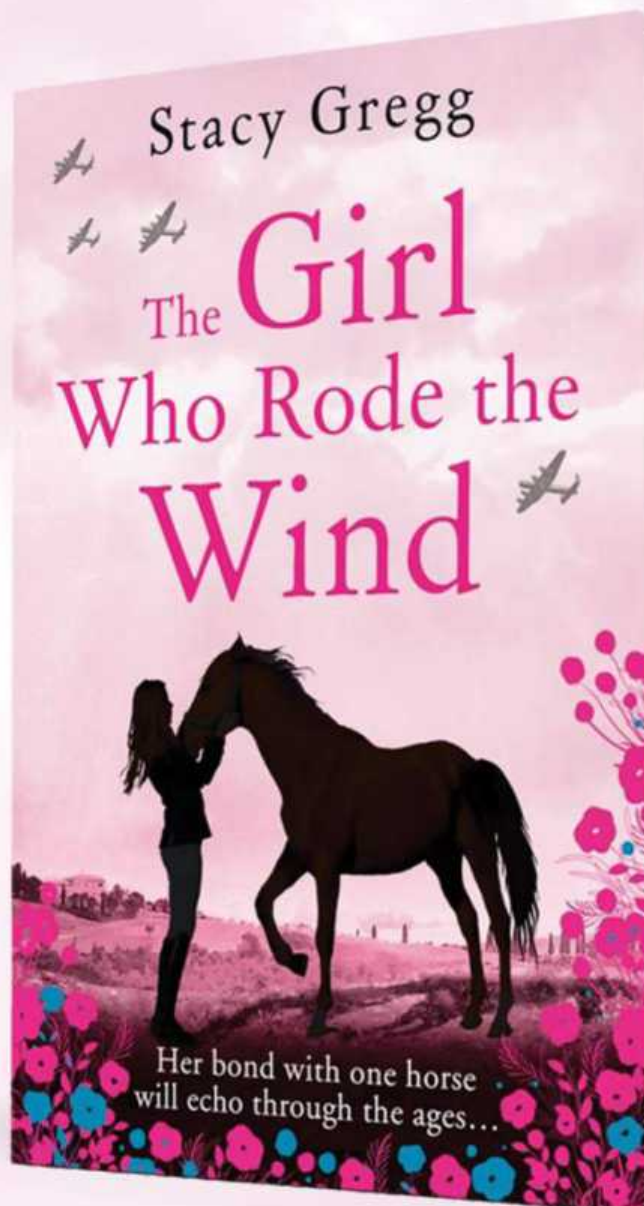
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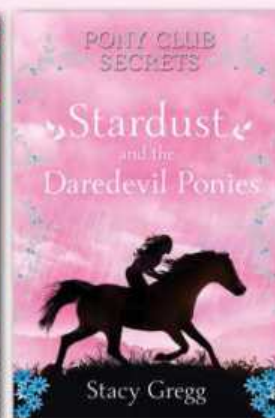
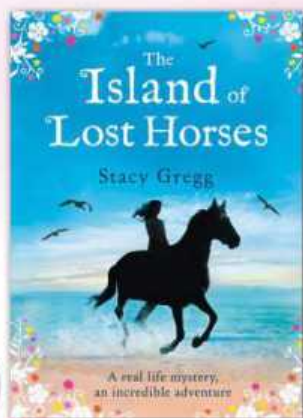
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of a champion,
my horse, I had
known it from the
very first moment
I saw him.

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DRESSAGE DIVA

My name is Grace. I thought I would send you an update on what I've been up to with my pony, Buttons. We have been doing dressage over winter and in May, Buttons and I won a junior dressage league! I love this little pony!

Grace Calvert-Whitehead



Hi guys,

Hasn't the weather been hot? Glorious in some ways but a bit bothersome in others! While lots of ponies love to sunbathe, they can also be affected by very hot days. Flies come out in force, they're likely to be feeling lazy, they need lots of water and ponies with pink skin on their noses can be at risk of sunburn. Make sure you do all you can to keep your pony happy!

Duggie and Soloman have been fighting over the shadiest areas of their paddock and they're constantly being smothered in fly spray! How are your ponies getting on this summer? Maybe they love sunbathing, or have had a bath? Whatever it is, make sure you send us a pic!

Laura

READER'S EMAILS

I am absolutely pony mad and PONY Magazine has given me some wonderful tips and has helped me and my pony hugely. PONY has helped people across the world achieve their goals.

Vienna Peel



GO MILO!

This is my 10-year-old pony, Milo. I have had him for three years. When I got him he was very cautious and weary of jumping but now we are doing great!

Daisy

SUPER CUTE PETS



Bingy owned by Jessica Matthews

Bentley owned by Elizabeth O'sullivan



Feathers & Molly owned by Austin

My pony club!



I am a member of Whaddon Chase Pony Club. I joined when I was six and did a bit of everything but Camp was the best! I started endurance riding when I was eight and we had great instructors. My pony Maisy and I won the first ever area competition! I also won the junior open Pony Club Endurance Championships and won National Endurance Supreme Champion! I would never have achieved it all without the support of WCPC!

Hannah Maskell

READER'S EMAILS

I am emailing to say how much I love PONY Magazine, especially the competitions. I have entered the next one so hopefully I will win. I find the info in the Mag so helpful, I use it when I ride my horse, George.

Ella-Mae Redmore

READER'S EMAILS

Dear PONY Team, I am writing to say the biggest thank you that I could ever say! Before I read the mags I was scared of riding but now I am cantering and loving it! Soon I am getting a share pony called Rosiel!

Anna Radford

POO-PICKING PONY

Can I get a big Shout Out to Alfie, the poo-picking pony! He loves helping my mum poo-pick his field while I'm at school. He's so clever, I love him so much!

Amelia Dickinson



PERFECT PEACHES

I would love to Shout Out to my pony, Peaches. She has made my riding improve loads and I'm now competing her regularly. When we brought her she hadn't done a lot but recently we came second in a big class!

Katy

MY RIDING SCHOOL

I am eight years old and I go for riding lessons each week at Hayfield Equestrian in Aberdeen. I love all the ponies there, but my favourite is Top Cat. He took a bit of getting used to but now he's awesome! I like him because he's very gentle and sometimes walks out of his stable even if he's tied up! Also, he canters easily. Top Cat is the best pony ever!

Chloe Benzie



LETTER OF THE MONTH

This is a picture of me and my dad going for a hack together. We look like little and large because Dad's horse, Jet, is 17hh and my pony, Star, is 13.2hh. It's a good job Star likes to walk fast! We love going on adventures and playing mounted games in the field!

I love Star and Jet, they are my best four-legged friends!

Hazel Deane

WIN one of these!



The writer of the letter of the month will receive a PONY Tail mini reporter bag! Available in pink or blue. Write to PONY Magazine, Marlborough House, Headley Road, Grayshott, Surrey GU26 6LG or email pony@djmurphy.co.uk Remember to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your picture returned.

turn over for more shout out



@_my.equestrian.life__

This is me on my favourite horse, Thor! He is a 15.3hh cob, who I first rode last summer. It was love at first ride. I love him so much!



@nevee_x

This is Earl, my gorgeous bay pony. Earl is only two and we have had him since he was a little foal. He is very cheeky and has a lovely character, I can't wait to bring him on!



@dressage_diva13

This is my pony Sixpence, who is a Welsh Mountain Pony. She is forward-going but has a lovely temperament. I love her so much!

READER'S EMAIL

Hi PONY! I'm so proud of my pony, Sweetpea, because she has had a long time off with an illness but has just come back into work and has been so well behaved! She loves the extra treats she gets and ear scratches.

Her best friend is a tubby Shetland called Super Noodles! Catarina

READER'S EMAIL

PONY Mag is the best! Reading the riding and jumping features has given me tonnes of confidence on my pony, Tigger (real name Timothy but we call him Tigger because he does a funny bouncy thing when he's excited!).

We're now jumping 80cm XC courses! Susie

Every letter and pet featured will win a fab PONY rosette! Don't forget to include your name and address!



TEAM SPIRIT

This is my special mare, Tiggy. She is 14.2hh and about 18 years old. When I got her I had never competed in a one day event, but I am now on my Pony Club's eventing and show jumping teams! We are looking forward to the area team ODE. I don't know what I'd do without her.

Alice Southcombe

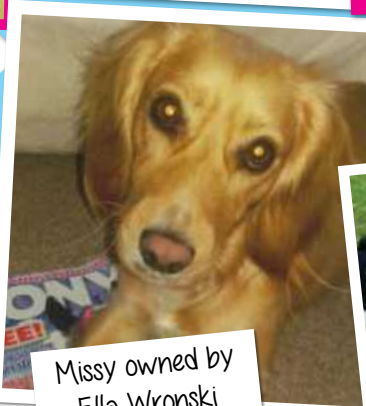


Rosie owned by Fern



George owned by Kamala, Oscar and Mia

SUPER CUTE PETS



Missy owned by Ella Wronski



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Rosie owned by Hannah Chapman

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A PONY READER

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DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS WITH ANY PICTURES THAT YOU SEND IN!

CHARLIE WILL PICK A STAR PICTURE IN EVERY ISSUE AND THE LUCKY WINNER WILL RECEIVE A FAB COPY OF *THE BIG BOOK OF DRAWING HORSES AND PONIES*. REMEMBER TO INCLUDE A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IF YOU'D LIKE YOUR PICTURE RETURNED!





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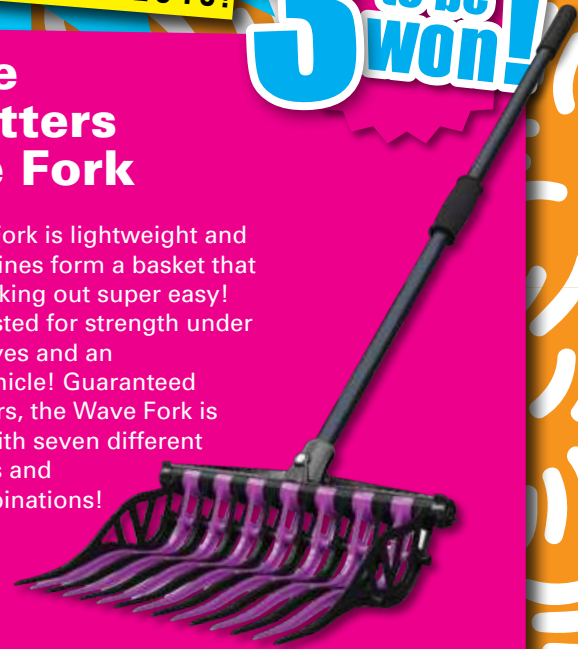
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3 to be won!

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FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, SIMPLY ANSWER THE QUESTION AND TIE-BREAKER. THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO ENTER — FILL OUT THE ENTRY FORM, ENTER ONLINE AT WWW.PONYCOMPETITIONS.CO.UK OR SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE.



PONY MAGAZINE ENTRY FORM-SEPTEMBER

WIN! A PAIR OF ARIAT JUNIOR BROMONT BOOTS (PAGE 12)

Q: Name one of the famous riders that wear Ariat Bromont Boots.

A: _____

Tie-breaker: What would you call a new design of super-smart, long riding boots?

Foot size: _____ Calf height: _____ Calf width: _____

Win it! (pages 52-53)

Answer the following question and tie-breaker, then tick the boxes for the items you'd like to try and win!

Q: Name one colourway the Bridleway Equestrian Contrast Stitch Saddlecloth is available.

A: _____

Tie-breaker:

Q: What design would you feature on a hoodie?

A: _____

☐ Carrots hat cover and socks

☐ Safe-Care Equine Collection

☐ Noble Outfitters Wave Fork

☐ Schleich Big Horse Show

☐ Bridleway saddlecloth
I would like size _____
I would like colour _____

☐ Animals Yeah Yeah Hoodie
I would like size _____

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Schleich Big Horse Show

The Big Horse Show from Schleich, with its dressage ring and jumps, makes for an equestrian extravaganza. Two lucky winners will get their hands on one of these!



www.schleich-s.com

2 to be won!

Animals Yeah Yeah Born To Ride Kids Hooded Sweatshirt

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www.animalsyeahyeah.com

4 to be won!

First name _____

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Please give month and year of birth:

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Yes, I'd love to receive the PONY email alert ☐

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CHARITY UPDATE

Catch up on the latest news from horsey charities and updates on some of the lovely rescue ponies!

Fun for everyone!

The Mare and Foal Sanctuary is excited to be hosting its 24th annual Horse and Dog Show on Sunday 13th September. There will be something for everyone, whether watching or competing.

From show jumping, in-hand classes, ridden showing, fancy dress and even "Thelwell pony", the schedule is packed! All funds raised will go towards the Sanctuary's work caring for horses.

www.mareandfoal.org



Fab, fun fancy dress!



Looking like champs!

MARVELLOUS minis!

Two miniature ponies who were abandoned in separate cases and rescued by HAPPA have found new forever homes. HAPPA Little John was left tied to a tree in a forest, suffering from strangles, while HAPPA Gandalf was abandoned, tethered on some wasteland.

The ponies have found loving new homes and have both recently embarked on showing careers, where they are proving to be show-stopping champions! They recently competed in the Red Rose Shetland Show, where both ponies came home with ribbons, and Little John even secured first place in the coloured section!

www.happa.org.uk



HAPPA Gandalf (left) and HAPPA Little John are showing successes!

WHW WEIGHT WATCHERS!

We all love summer, ponies included, but we must be careful that the presence of lush green grass doesn't cause ponies to pile on the pounds. World Horse Welfare advises that overweight equines are much more likely to experience difficulties with their health from other conditions, such as laminitis and heart and breathing problems. A carefully controlled diet and regular exercise are two key factors to keeping ponies trim and in good shape!

Even Shetland WHW Janice, who is too small to be ridden, gets her exercise by being taken pony power walking – a perfect summer evening activity!

www.worldhorsewelfare.org



WHW Janice, the super cute Shetland!

NEW HOME FOR ZIG ZAG

Gentle mare Zig Zag, a Redwings' rescue resident, has found a loving new home at Ebony Horse Club – a charity dedicated to supporting, educating and inspiring young people in London through the love of horses.

Rescued in 2009 by the RSPCA, along with 10 other mares who were found in a terrible state of neglect, Zig Zag and the mares were signed over to Redwings. With lots of love and care from the team, they all made fantastic recoveries.

www.redwings.org.uk



Zig Zag before...



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PART 1 Horrible Habits!



VICTORIA CAN'T WAIT TO RIDE HER NEW PONY. BUT SHE SOON DISCOVERS HE MIGHT NOT BE WHAT SHE EXPECTED...



Victoria



Tara



Molly



Alice



Jumble was so well behaved when I rode him to try him out, I can't wait to hack him!



Oh Jumble, stop that!



Shall I try?



Now Jumble, stop this messing around!



Jumble is being so naughty! He keeps evading his bridle!



Aww he doesn't mean it! It just seems like he's got a few bad habits!

Will Victoria ever get Jumble's bridle on? And will she cure his bad habit? Find out next month, only in PONY Magazine!

STARRING: SOPHIE AS VICTORIA, LIVY AS MOLLY, EMI AS ALICE, POPPY AS TARA AND PEPPER AS JUMBLE. LOCATION: HEWSHOTT FARM RIDING STABLES.

I won a KBIS Bursary!

REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES

Susie never imagined she'd win the chance to improve her riding – but guess what...?

My name is Susie Webster and I own a 15hh Irish Sports Horse called Kia. She is 15 years old and I have had her for two-and-a-half years. We regularly compete in NSEA (National Schools Equestrian Association) and Pony Club competitions. Kia is so incredible and I owe everything to her. I won the 14-and-under KBIS bursary in 2014 through the NSEA.

It all began when my riding team manager at my school told our team about a riding bursary that top horse insurance company KBIS were running with the NSEA. I leapt at the chance to enter. This was a national competition for schools that are members of the NSEA, for riders all over the country. There were two categories: 14-and-under, and 15-and-over. I thought that there was no harm in trying!

VIDEO STAR

For the first round I had to make a video explaining my previous achievements, my aims for the year and what I would do with the £500 bursary money if I won. This took me a very long time to make, with hundreds of out-takes involving Kia getting annoyed and dragging me to grass at the side of the arena, and me begging my sister to record me for the hundredth time. When I finally submitted the video and watched other entries I felt very doubtful about my chance of winning!

SHORTLISTED!

After a couple of weeks of very anxious waiting, KBIS announced the five riders on the shortlists for both categories – and I was one of them in the 14-and-under section. I couldn't believe it and thought I was the luckiest person ever! The second round was much harder; I had to submit 100-150 words on why I believed horse insurance was important. Obviously I think it is crucial because Kia is my partner and in a crisis I would need the reassurance that she would get the best treatment. This is why, for me, horse insurance is vital.

When I submitted my answer that would decide the final result there was another anxious wait, and I convinced myself that winning would never happen to me.

KNOCK ME DOWN WITH A FEATHER...

But it did! When I received the email to say I'd won £500 training money and sponsored clothing for myself and Kia I couldn't believe it – I didn't stop smiling for days! It just proves that you don't have to have the most fancy horse or be jumping the biggest courses to achieve something! The added bonus was the sponsored clothing – I received a rug, a numnah, t-shirts and jackets, and it was so nice to be able to wear them out and about with the KBIS logo on them.

The £500 training money was so useful to my development as a rider, and strengthened the bond



Me with the poster (above left) – featuring me – and jumping at home with Kia!



between Kia and myself. I was able to have regular lessons with Pony Club and BSJA accredited coaches, which I normally couldn't afford. It also enabled me to enter more shows with Kia so I didn't feel any nerves when we went to the big shows. It developed our partnership into a team that works together.

IT ALL PAYS OFF

In 2014, with the help of the bursary, I competed at Royal Windsor Horse Show in the inter-schools showjumping. We qualified at the Hickstead Schools competition to ride in the international arena in the junior section at 1.05m, and our team came seventh. We also came second at Felbridge show ground, qualifying to compete at the National Schools Equestrian Championships last October at 85cm.

I'M FAMOUS

I truly believe that my achievements were due to the Bursary. As well as the development in my riding it also developed my self-belief. KBIS were so supportive, and they always wanted to know what I was doing with Kia. I was asked to write regular updates for their social media pages, followed by thousands of customers. That was also mind-blowing because it meant our journey was followed by other people, too, including Izzy Taylor, the four-star GB eventer who saw my Bursary entry video!

THANKS!

I sent KBIS lots of photos of Kia and myself, which they used. At the NSEA National Championships in October, we were featured on the poster advertising the KBIS/NSEA Bursary for the year. It was so cool!

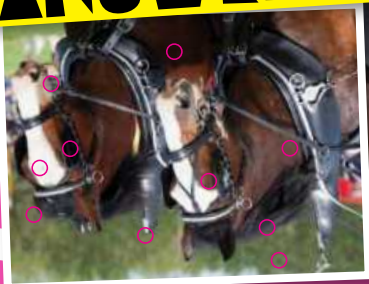
I would like to thank KBIS and NSEA for choosing me for the Bursary in 2014 because it has helped me become a rider I am proud of, and made all the hard work worth it!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

Are you able to find 10 differences between these pictures?

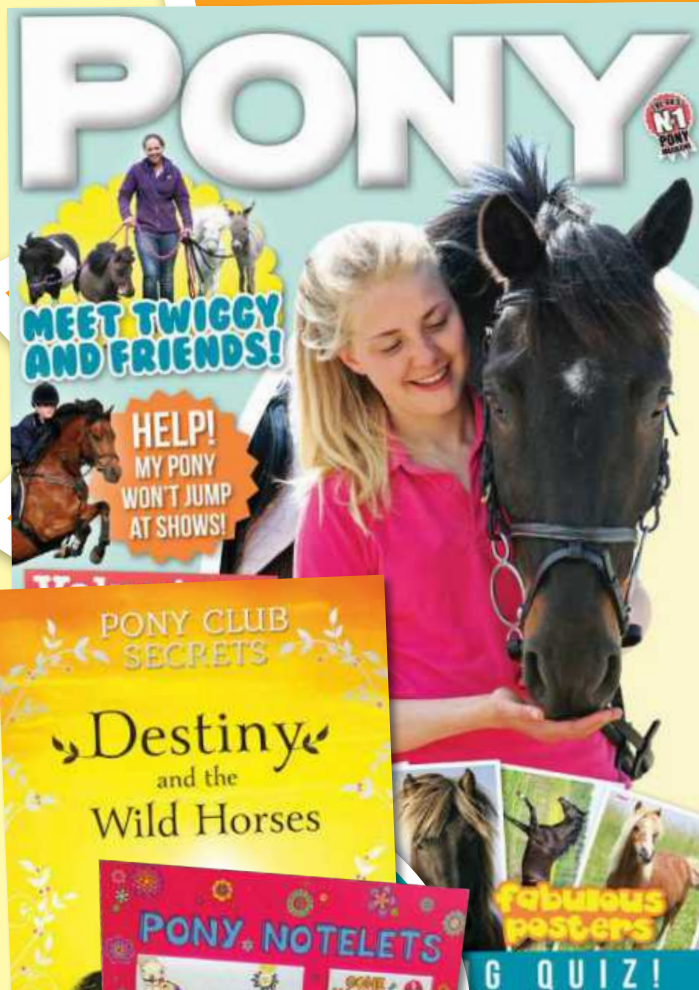


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MISTAKEN IDENTITY

I hadn't been at my new riding school long when I was asked to go to the field and catch Solo and Tiffany. So I dutifully went out and caught them and brought them in, putting them in their stables. A little while later there were screams of laughter – I had caught the wrong horses. In my defence, they were covered in fly protection rugs and hoods, so it was pretty understandable.

Rosie



**TOTAL
EMBARRASSMENT!**



**THE BLIND
LEADING
THE BLIND**

KITTY LITTER

After feeding my pony for the night, I shut the feed bins and left the yard. The next day, the yard manager wanted a 'word' with me. Apparently, her favourite stable cat had climbed into one of my feed bins, I hadn't noticed, and the cat had spent the night in the bin. The cat was pretty traumatised when the manager, hearing her distressed meowing, found her in the morning. I don't know why she was so upset – I had to clean out my feed bin!

Lauren

BEDDING CONFUSION

I was at my first stable day and we were laying a horse's bed but some of the bedding got wet. The instructor asked me to chuck it away so I took it out the yard to the rubbish bin until someone told me I had to put it on the dung heap. As I walked back across the yard towards it everyone watched me. So embarrassing!

Leah

**EPIC
EMBARRASSMENT!**



**EPIC
EMBARRASSMENT!**



TACK TRAUMA

At my Centre Pony Club rally, we got to take bridles apart to clean, and then had to put them back together again. Some of the other members were having trouble getting all the parts in the right place, so I helped them, feeling a bit smug because I knew what to do. Only when the instructor came to check them all, I hadn't got it right at all. Everyone got told off – until they told her I had done it – and I felt totally stupid.

I won't be volunteering to help next time!

Grace

**TOTAL
EMBARRASSMENT!**



NOT SO GORGEOUS GEORGE

My little sister Amelia nagged and nagged at me to ride my old pony George, so in the end I said yes, even though I knew he was way too strong for her. We went out riding and at the first canter, George flew past me and my other pony, Pansy, with Amelia tugging on the reins and yelling her head off. Of course, George just went faster and faster until he got home, and Amelia couldn't wait to get off him.

Amelia told our mum I'd done it on purpose – which I had – but I denied it. She hasn't asked to ride George since.

Gemma

**MEGA
EMBARRASSMENT!**



**GEORGE...
STOP...**



Share your cringe-worthy moments with us. Awww, go on! Send them to the usual PONY address or email.

PONY

MAGAZINE

PONY
Survey 2016

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Q1 How old are you? _____

Q2 Which non-equestrian magazines do you read frequently? _____

Q3 Which equestrian magazines do you regularly read other than PONY Magazine?

- ☐ Horse&Rider ☐ Horse & Hound ☐ Your Horse
☐ Horse ☐ Local Rider ☐ Other

Q4 Where do you buy PONY Magazine?

- ☐ Local newsagent ☐ Tack shop ☐ Garden centre
☐ Supermarket – if so, which one? _____
☐ I have a yearly subscription

Q5 Have you ever bought a product as a result of seeing it in PONY Mag?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what was it? _____

Q6 What free cover-gift would you most like to get with PONY? _____

Q7 What is your favourite horsey brand of clothing? _____

Q8 Do you go to horsey exhibitions or shows?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which ones? _____

Q9 Do you have any model ponies?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, which make/s? _____

Q10 Do you support an equine charity?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, which one/s? _____

Q11 How often do you buy PONY Magazine?

- ☐ Every issue ☐ Roughly every other issue
☐ Eight to 10 copies a year ☐ A few times a year

Q12 How long have you been reading PONY Magazine?

- ☐ Less than a year ☐ Less than two years
☐ Less than five years ☐ More than five years

Q13 What would you like to see more of in the magazine? _____

Q14 Other than you, how many people read your copy of PONY Magazine?

- ☐ One person ☐ Two people
☐ Three people ☐ Four or more people

Q15 How long do you keep your copy of PONY?

- ☐ Up to one month ☐ Two to six months
☐ Seven to 12 months ☐ Over a year

Q16 Are either of your parents horsey?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q17 Do either of your parents read your copy of PONY Magazine?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q18 What do you mostly use the Internet for? _____

Q19 Which websites do you frequently visit? _____

Q20 Do you ever visit the PONY website, ponymag.com?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you access it via ☐ phone ☐ tablet ☐ computer

Q21 If you answered yes to question 20, how often do you visit ponymag.com?

- ☐ Every day
☐ Several times a week
☐ Once a week
☐ Every few weeks



Q22 What is your favourite part/s of ponymag.com?

Q23 Do you use any social networking sites and if so, which are your favourites?

Q24 How often do you log on to your favourite social networks?

- ☐ Hardly ever ☐ Once a week
☐ Once a day ☐ I'm always logged in on my phone

Q25 Have you ever shopped at ponymag.com?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q26 Do you have a smart phone?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which make?

Q27 Do you have a tablet?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which make?

Q28 Which horsey app/apps have you downloaded in the last six months?

Q29 How long have you been riding?

- ☐ Under six months ☐ Six months to one year
☐ One to two years ☐ Two to four years
☐ More than four years ☐ I don't ride

Q30 How often do you ride?

- ☐ Every day ☐ More than once a week ☐ Once a week
☐ Once a month ☐ Less than once a month

Q31 How often do you have riding lessons?

- ☐ Once a week ☐ Two to three times a month
☐ Once a month or less ☐ Not at all

Q32 What pony do you ride?

- ☐ Your own pony ☐ A loan pony ☐ A friend's pony
☐ A riding school pony ☐ Other _____

Q33 What level of riding are you currently?

- ☐ I don't ride ☐ Walking and trotting on the lead rein
☐ Walking, trotting and cantering off the lead rein
☐ Beginning to jump ☐ Jumping confidently

Q34 If you have your own pony or loan pony, where do you keep it?

- ☐ At home ☐ At a DIY livery yard
☐ On full/part livery ☐ At a riding school

Q35 Who decides what your pony eats?

- ☐ I do ☐ My parents
☐ The yard manager ☐ Other _____

Q36 What is your favourite brand of horse feed?

Q37 Would you like to go on a riding holiday?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Q38 How do you mostly buy your horsey gear?

- ☐ I buy it ☐ My parents choose it and I buy it
☐ I choose it, my parents buy it
☐ Receive them as Christmas or birthday gifts

Q39 On a scale of 1 to 5 how important to you are the following parts of PONY Magazine, if 5 is very important?

	1	2	3	4	5
Riding instruction					
Understanding ponies					
Looking after ponies					
Veterinary					
Quizzes					
Games					
Posters					
Real life stories					
Photo stories					
Gifts on the cover					
News					

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Q) Which of the PONY Mag ponies now has their own column?

Tie-breaker: Describe your view of PONY Magazine in fewer than 10 words.

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THANK YOU



HELP!

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NO COWPONY POTENTIAL

Q: The farmer has put cows in the field next to my pony's field, and my pony doesn't like them! He goes crazy when I catch him and take him in or out of the field. What can I do?

A: Oh dear, some ponies do find cows scary, and it seems your pony is one of them. You can hope he gets used to them but in the meantime, you need to make sure you don't get hurt handling him when he is frightened.

When you go to catch him, put a bridle over his headcollar so you have more control. If you can get a friend to come with you, they can operate the gate, which leaves you free to lead your pony. Always wear a hard hat, gloves and proper boots.

The main thing is not to make too much of a fuss as if you are nervous, your pony will be, too. If you are confident and show no worries about the cows, he may take his cue from your behaviour, and be reassured.

You could always explain to the farmer the trouble you are having, and he or she may be able to use another field for the cows – or move them once they have grazed the grass down.



Scary? Us?

ASK LORRAINE

HEAD
TOO HIGH

Q: My pony lifts her head up too high whenever we canter and I can't stop her. Should I put a martingale on her?

LORRAINE REPLIES

A: A running martingale would help because your pony is lifting her head so high your bit isn't working correctly. A martingale must only put pressure on your reins if your pony lifts her head too high, so ask someone experienced to fit it with you.

She may be putting her head up because you're pulling instead of riding forward – understandable if you can't stop! Keep your arms and fingers relaxed on your reins (if your fingers ache so does your pony's mouth!) and push on! Strange as that sounds, pushing on into your contact will push your pony's back legs under her, and she'll arch her back – not hollow it – lowering her head and giving you more control.

Straight lines and long stretches of canter may wind her up. Keep her focused and calm by:

- Canter circles up and down the school.
- Breaking up the canter with transitions to trot.
- Canter 20 strides and trotting 20 strides.

A running martingale





DUGGIE'S DILEMMA

CARROT QUERY

Q: Is there a right way to cut up carrots? Someone at my riding school said that if you get it wrong, ponies can choke.



A: The best way to cut up carrots for ponies is to slice them lengthways into long strips. If you cut them into rings, there is a danger a pony may bolt them down, and one could get stuck in his throat. It is better to be safe rather than sorry.

IT'S ME NERVES, YOU SEE...

Q: I have just gone up a lesson at my riding school, and my new group tend to jump every week for the last 20 minutes of the lesson. I haven't done much jumping – how can I make sure I'm not nervous?

A: It is only natural to be apprehensive, but your instructor will know you have only just joined the lesson, and should make allowances. Have a quiet word with her to let her know you are feeling nervous, just to make sure.

With jumping, if you get your position right, you will be fine. Fold at the waist, bend your knees and keep your lower leg forward, heels down, to feel secure. Watch the other pupils. If they get it right, copy them. If they get it wrong, analyse what they did and try not to do the same!

NEW SHOES?

Q: How can I find a farrier for my pony? We've just moved to a totally new area, so my old one is too far away.

A: Go to www.farrier-reg.gov.uk, website of the Farriers' Registration Council, and locate the find a farrier page. You simply key in your name and location, and you'll see all the registered farriers in your area!

CONFUSED BY RULES

Q: Can you give me an idea of what I should do if I school my pony in the arena when other riders are there? They keep giving me dirty looks whenever I give my pony a rest and either stop or walk around the outside track. Surely they can see me there, and go past?

A: Riding in a school or arena with other riders needs rules so that everyone can get the best out of their schooling, and accidents are avoided. If you wish to stand still, it is polite to come into the middle of the school so that other riders can use the outside track for faster work. The same goes for walking – try to do this on the inside track, and keep an eye out for riders in trot or canter so you can give way.

Always pass other riders left-hand to left-hand. This way, everyone knows what to expect and what to do and collisions are kept to a minimum.



Standing still? Do it in the middle!



Enjoy your jumping

My pony cost me my best friend!

Ali's new pony caused a rift she hadn't anticipated

REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES

I've read stories about how best friends fall out when one of them gets a pony. Usually, it's written by the person without a pony, and focuses on how their former BFF makes new friends and leaves them behind. But it's not always like that. I'm going to tell you my story. I'm the friend who got a pony.

SHARED PASSION

My friend Zara and I started riding together – it was a shared passion. After we'd been riding at Walnut Grove Riding School for a year or so, we were allowed to stay after our lesson and help out with the ponies. By the time we were 14, we were helping out all weekend, and even got the occasional free ride in return. It was blissful, and Zara and I were still best mates, with a common interest neither of us could give up.

And then my parents announced that they would buy me my own pony, and everything changed.

WE'LL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS

When I told Zara I could see she wasn't as happy for me as I had expected. I hadn't thought getting a pony would affect our relationship, but I could see that we were no longer on the same footing. One of us was going to be elevated to a pony-owner, and that someone was me.

"But what about Google?" Zara asked me. Google was my favourite school pony.

"I'll still love him," I told her – but deep down I knew my relationship with Google was bound to suffer. Besides, Google had lots of fans, he was a popular pony and would hardly be neglected.

"You won't want to hang out with me any more," said Zara. "You'll be too busy with your own pony."

"I won't!" I insisted. "We'll always be friends!" and I really believed it.

A NEW PONY IN MY LIFE

Paddy came into my life – a black New Forest pony with a funny, sticky-up mane which waved in the wind. He had to live on the livery yard so I spent most of my time there, instead of with the school ponies, and the other girls with ponies started talking to me, and inviting me to ride with them. And because Zara could only ride on escorted hacks for an hour at a time, I found myself riding more with my new friends. It was just the way it turned out.

And then when I started going to events and shows, of course Zara couldn't come – at least, not to compete. Even though I asked her whether she'd like to be my groom. We'd always dreamed of one of the liveries asking us to groom for them, so I thought she'd be thrilled.

"I've got better things to do than be your slave," Zara snapped at me when I asked her. I was taken aback.

"I didn't mean it like that," I protested. "I just thought you'd like to be included. It'll be fun!"



I spent most of my time with Paddy on the livery yard.

Posed by models

"Fun for you, you mean," she cried. "Fun for you winning rosettes and enjoying yourself. I'll just be watching you ride and doing all the work."

TIGERS VS PONIES

I thought Zara was being totally unreasonable. I told my mum as she'd noticed something was wrong.

"Do you remember when your sister Helen got a toy tiger for Christmas one year, and we got you a polar bear. Only you didn't want the polar bear, you wanted the tiger. How you showed off!" Mum said.

I remembered. "But I was only five," I said.

"Yes, but getting a pony is about a million times more important than a toy tiger, I'd have thought," said Mum. "Imagine how you would feel if Zara had Paddy, and you were still only helping with the school ponies."

"The school ponies are ace," I said. "You make them sound second-rate."

"Not at all," said Mum. "It's just not the same, that's all. See if you can work it out with Zara."

I didn't see how I could but Mum had made me think.

MAKE OR BREAK

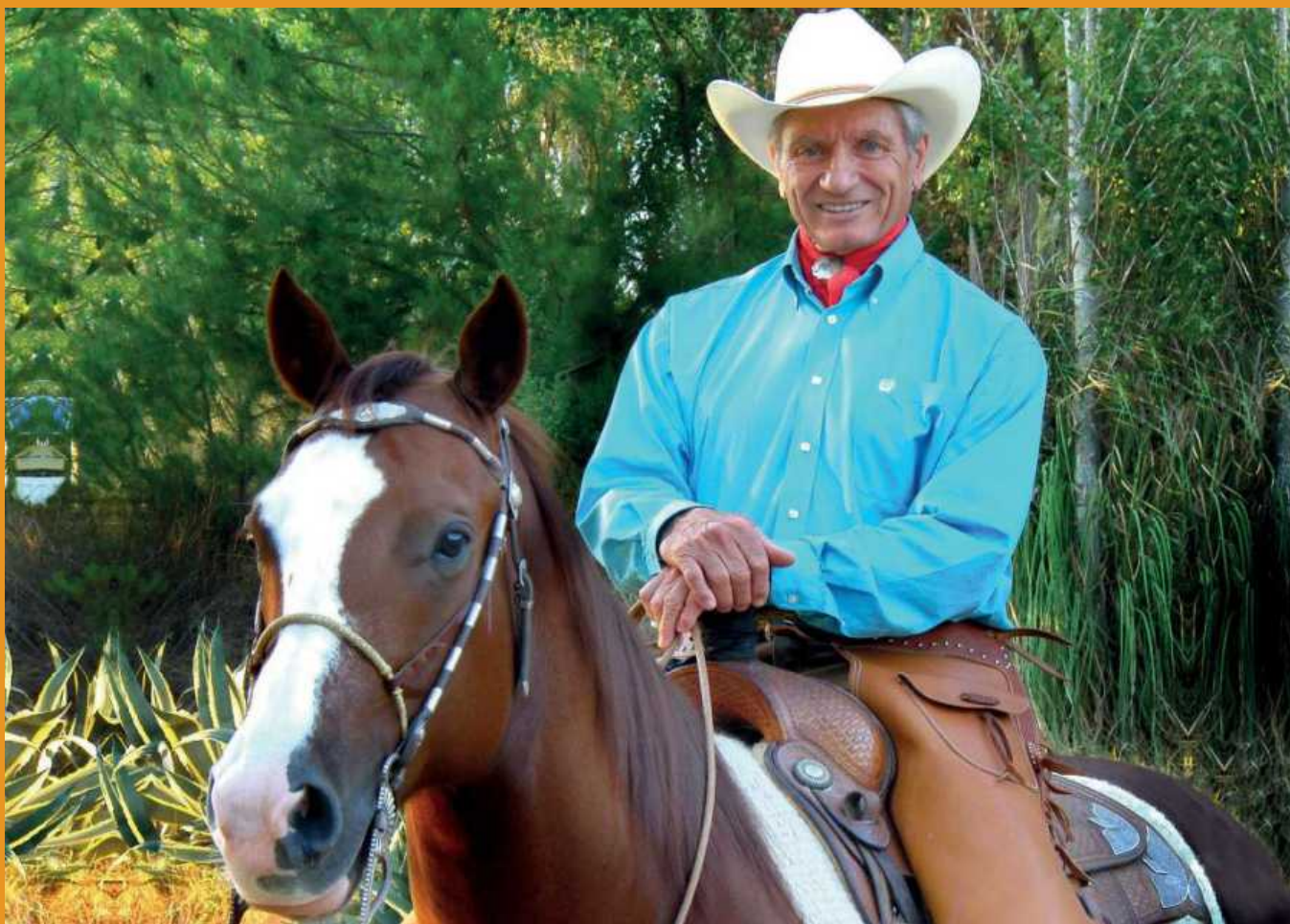
The next day I decided it was make-or-break time. I told Zara I'd really appreciate her help with Paddy, and asked her whether she'd like to look after him when I went on holiday in a few weeks' time. But it seemed there was no going back. Zara just shook her head – and I could see tears in her eyes as she turned and ran back to the school yard. Having my own pony was something she just couldn't get over.

Paddy's my pony. I love him and I always will – but he cost me my best friend.

"Getting a pony is about a million times more important than a toy tiger," said Mum.

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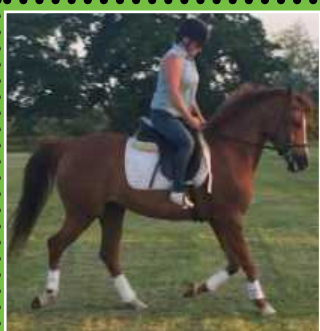
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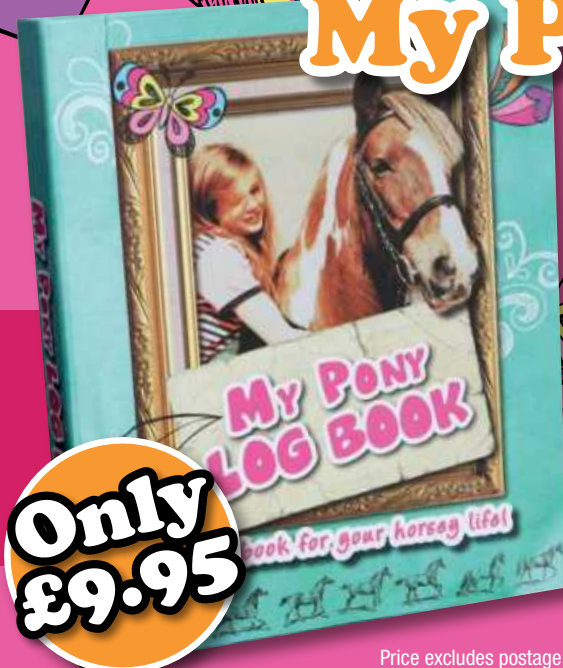
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COLONEL'S COLUMN



You remember that pheasant I told you about last month? Well things have moved on. Not content with just clucking a bit, he has taken to muscling in on feeding time. That's right – can you believe it? As soon as Kate turns up with a bucket, he's hovering in the background, getting nearer and nearer every day, cleaning up anything I might drop once I've moved on.

I need to get a handle on this. I mean, it just won't do. At all. No, no, NO.

Stop the pigeon... too late!

Did I laugh today! (The answer is yes, I did.) I spent the day in the yard next to Duggie and Soloman's field, waiting for the farrier. We had a chat (Duggie and Soloman and me, not me and the farrier), and caught up with all the news and gossip. Soloman told me that the nettles down the end of the field were ripening nicely, and should be ready to eat soon when the sting has gone out of them. I told him and Duggie about the cheeky pheasant. They were outraged on my behalf. I thought they might be.

That wasn't the funny bit (you probably guessed that). After our chat, Duggie wandered over to the trough to quench his thirst and, just as his lowered his head to take a sip or two, a passing pigeon flew over and sent a little personal pigeon parcel down from on-high, which landed smack-bang between Duggie's ears. The Duggster, unable to believe what had happened, shook his head violently, sending the offending gift left and right. I dived into one of the stables where I could laugh to my heart's content. It wouldn't do for Duggie to know I had spotted his humiliation. I'll save that up for when he's *really* annoying me. Shouldn't be too long.



Duggie, just before the fateful deed...

Little things mean a lot

So my hooves look dapper. Very nice job, thanks to the farrier. Nice chap – not too talkative, which I appreciate. And, he's very accommodating about bending right down so I don't have to lift my hooves too high. It's these little things which mean a lot, you know. It think the farrier was bemused as I kept sniffing and sniggering every time I remembered Duggie's pigeon present. It's good to laugh.

Midge madness

It's been very hot. I don't mind too much as my paddock is full of lovely trees which offer plenty of shade. I also have a rather large field shelter, but it's nicer to stand out in the shade than stay indoors. The only problem is early in the morning and late at night when the midges come out. I suffer from sweet itch, but with my fly rug (see me, below) and regular topical solution applications, Kate has the situation under control. Still, there is no need to encourage the little horrors, so I do sometimes retreat to my lair (shelter) during those times. You wouldn't

believe something so small could cause so many problems – I mean, a tiny flying insect. How do they get through my coat anyway? They may be small, but they're as mean as can be. I believe it would be rather nice if they were to become extinct!



Bubble Duggie

The. Roof. Is. Finished. All the workmen have gone and peace reigns. Ahhhhhhhh. When I mentioned to Duggie how peaceful everything was without the workforce he looked at me in a bewildered way and asked me, "What workforce?" I know he and Soloman live in the field *behind* the house, and I live in the one *in front* of it, but you'd think he'd notice a bit of activity with scaffolding, yelling and trucks zooming up and down the drive. Apparently not. Talk about living in a bubble...

We're all stars!

I've just seen the new PONY Annual – and the best bit, as always, is the photostory starring all of US! Yep, we're all in it, as usual, and we all look pretty cool. No surprises there. Enjoy!

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